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ORIGIN: NO.: A - 90, January 28, 1958

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INFO SUBJECT: Law of the Sea Conference

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Reference:

Embtel 307, CA-4339, CA-5610

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E REP TO: The American Embassy, CIUDAD TRUJILLO

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Because of the traditional position generally favorable to the United States which the Dominican Republic has taken on law of the sea matters, particularly in regard to the three-mile territorial sea, it would be in the U.S. interest for the Dominican Republic to attend the upcoming UN Law of the Sea Conference. It is suggested that the Ambassador, if he considers it appropriate, discuss this matter with the Foreign Minister in an attempt to encourage the Dominican Government to change its position on the matter of attending the Conference. The Ambassador should stress the advantage of the Conference to the Dominicans especially in furtherance of their traditional anti-Communist position. In this connection the security arguments in favor of a narrow breadth of territorial sea (CA-4339) should appeal to them as well as the fact that any defeat of the three-mile concept in the Conference would likely accrue to the benefit of the Communists. The vote of the Dominican Republic based on its traditional adherence to the three-mile concept is needed to prevent a decision at the Conference detrimental to the interests of the Free World. The Dominicans might also be appealed to on the basis of pride, in that the Dominican Republic was host to the "Inter-American Specialized Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources: The Continental Shelf and Marine Waters."

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